DC
BATMAN INCORPORATED
705
$2.99
U.S.
BATMAN
TONY DANIEL
DIRECT SALES
70511
7 61941 20005 7
FEB 2011 DCCOMICS.COM

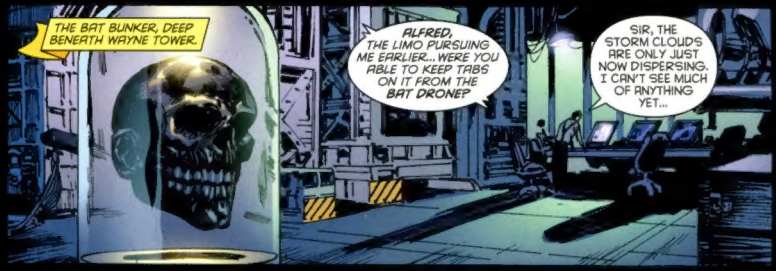
THE SHIFTING CITY OF NANDA PARBAT.
"BATMAN WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO CHEAT DEATH THAT DAY.
"THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE HEALED THE DETECTIVE'S MORTAL WOUNDS."
RA'S!
"AMID THE CHAOS, RA'S AL GHUL—MY SON—ESCAPED TO A NEW HOST BODY.
"BUT THERE WOULD BE ONE MORE LIFE SAVED BEFORE THE DAY WAS OVER.
"A BRAVE YOUNG SOUL ALTERED MY FATE, FISHING ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
"...AND BACK TO THE LIGHT.
"'A SIP OF LAZARUS,' THE BRAVE SOUL INFORMED ME, WOULD NOT ONLY HEAL ME, BUT SHOW ME THE WAY TO TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT."

GOTHAM CITY, NOW.
MY ENLIGHTENMENT INDICATES THAT YOU ARE NOT THE BATMAN THAT DIED BY MY HANDS AT NANDA PARBAT—BUT A CHILD IN DISGUISE.
NOW STEP ASIDE AND LET ME DEAL WITH PEACOCK OR SEE HOW SHORT I CAN MAKE YOUR WOEFUL LIFE.
SENSE!
HE'S RIGHT, BATMAN. THIS IS MY FIGHT!
YAA!
AND GOTHAM IS MY HOME—SO EXCUSE ME IF I DON'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING HOST TONIGHT.
SO BE IT! YOU WILL BOTH DIE THEN!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY, BATMAN.
PAP
YOUR DEATH WILL BE PAINLESS, PEACOCK. I CANNOT SAY THE SAME FOR YOUR BROTHER LUKI.
AGHGGG!
TGGGG!
Have to get us out of here. Peacock's inhaled some kind of gas.
WOK
DOESN'T ANYONE STAY DEAD THESE DAYS?
KRAK
THWAK

Knockout Batarangs for the score!
TIME FOR A NAP, GRAMPS. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH TOXINS AT HIS DISPOSAL.
THUK
THUK
THUK
DICK GRAYSON
BATMAN
WE HAVE TO JET, MISS. HOLD ON TO ME AND I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
PEACOCK
I-I CAN HANDLE MYSELF. MOST POISONS ONLY DAZE ME. BESIDES, I'M ONLY SEEING THREE OF YOU NOW.
AND THAT'S GOOD!
AT FIRST I SAW TWELVE OF YOU.
NOW--LET'S MAKE SOME DISTANCE.
FOLLOW ME.

AFTER WITNESSING THE DEATHS OF HIS PARENTS AS A BOY, DICK GRAYSON WAS TAKEN UNDER BATMAN'S WING, BECOMING ROBIN. BUT WHEN THE BOY WONDER BECAME A MAN, HE SHED THE IDENTITY OF ROBIN AND BRANDED HIMSELF AS NIGHTWING. TODAY DICK IS THE GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM CITY. TODAY HE IS...
BATMAN
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER PART TWO | SEE NO EVIL
FIRST THINGS FIRST-- WE HAVE TO FIND YOUR BROTHER, LUKI.
HE WAS HEADED TO THE AIRFIELD. THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN GET TO HIM IN TIME.
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT ME-- DON'T YOU, BATMAN?
I KNOW ENOUGH. BUT I NEED YOU TO FILL IN SOME BLANKS. LIKE WHAT DOES SENSEI WANT WITH LUKI?
THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE FOR YOU TO KNOW, IS THERE? A CHILD IS IN DANGER-- ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
FOR NOW...
DON'T YOU DRIVE A FAST CAR OR SOMETHING? WE COULD REALLY USE THAT RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
IT'S IN THE SHOP. BESIDES, WITH THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL TONIGHT--
--WE CAN IMPROVISE.
WRITTEN, ILLUSTRATED & COVER BY TONY S. DANIEL
ADDITIONAL INKS BY SANDU FLOREA
COLORED BY IAN HANNIN LETTERED BY JARED K. FLETCHER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR JANELLE SIEGEL EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

MOVE IT, FOOLS!
COWARDS! HIDING WITHIN A CROWD.
FIND THEM!
FOUND!
YAAA!
HE-YAAGH!
Always wanted to do that.


THE BAT BUNKER, DEEP BENEATH WAYNE TOWER.
ALFRED, THE LIMO PURSUING ME EARLIER... WERE YOU ABLE TO KEEP TABS ON IT FROM THE BAT DRONE?
SIR, THE STORM CLOUDS ARE ONLY JUST NOW DISPERSING. I CAN'T SEE MUCH OF ANYTHING YET...

WHAT ABOUT NEAR THE AIRFIELD? THE STORM PASSED THAT AREA SEVERAL MOMENTS AGO.
ALFRED PENNYWORTH
BUTLER TO THE WAYNE FAMILY
YES, VISIBILITY'S BETTER.
BINGO. I'VE FOUND A LIMO.

BUT HOW WILL I KNOW IF IT'S THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR? THEY ALL LOOK--

MY WORD! IT JUST EXPLODED!
COORDINATES, ALFIE.

I'VE LOCATED YOUR SIGNAL. SIR? ARE THOSE... HORSES?
I CAN SEE THE SMOKE FROM HERE. WHAT'S THE STREET?

FOUR BLOCKS AWAY. THE ALLEY BETWEEN 4th STREET AND PIPER.

LUKI!

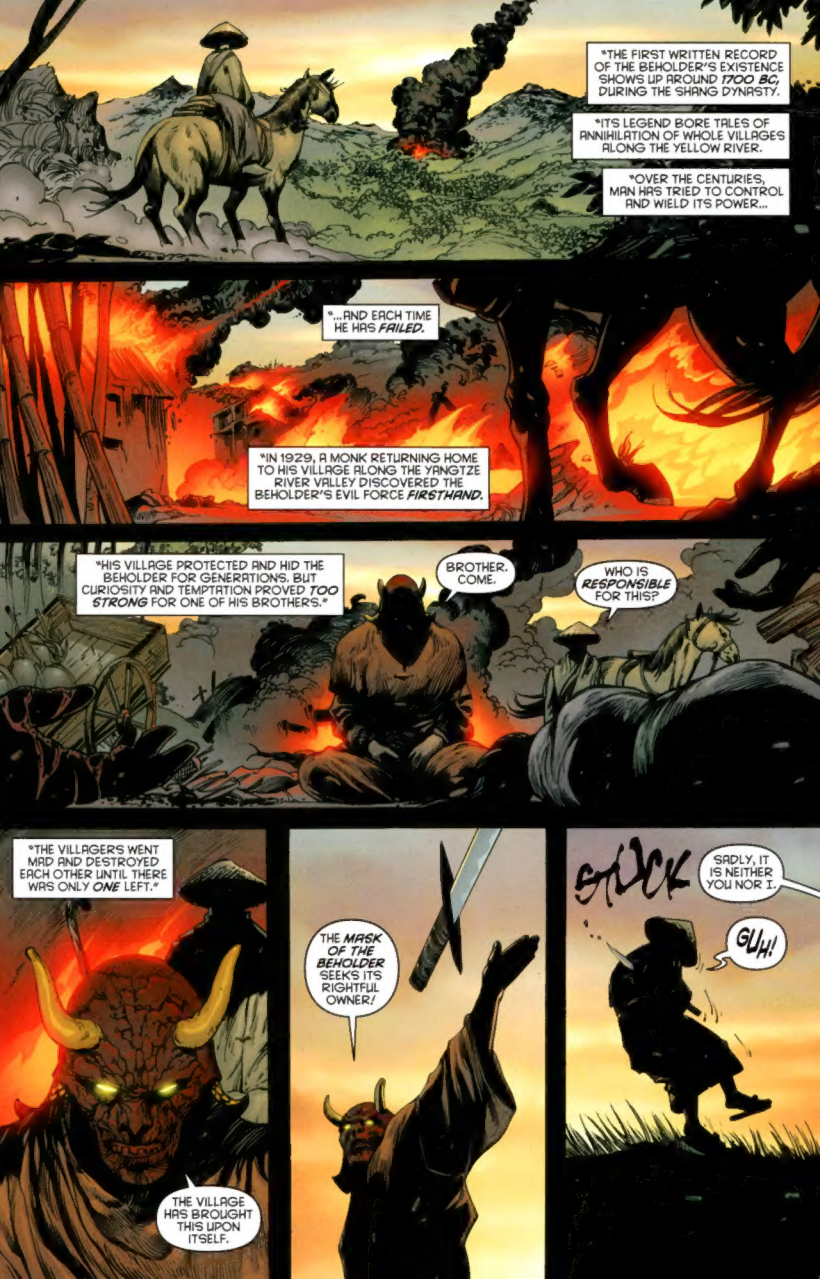
NO! IT CAN'T BE! LUKI!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF A BODY. YOUR BROTHER MAY STILL BE ALIVE.
SENSEI'S DEMON TRIBE HAS HIM. HE'S CONSCIOUS AND NOT IN ANY PAIN.
BUT HE'S AFRAID.
THEY'RE DRIVING HIM SOMEWHERE... BUT HE'S BLINDFOLDED.

SO YOU'RE... A TELEPATH?

NO. LUKI IS QUITE GIFTED, BUT HE HAS YET TO PERFECT THE ART OF TELEPATHY.

LISTEN, I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR BROTHER, BUT RIGHT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO FILL ME IN ON WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON--
--STARTING WITH YOU AND YOUR BROTHER. WHAT DOES LUKI HAVE THAT SENSEI WANTS?
YOU MUST TRUST ME, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST HANDLE MYSELF... ALONE.
MAY I OFFER A DIFFERENT OPINION, PEACOCK?

THIS YOUNG BATMAN CAN CERTAINLY BE OF USE TO US. ESPECIALLY FOR SECURING THE BEHOLDER.
YOU'RE WORKING WITH I-CHING?
YOU SOUGHT MY HELP, I-CHING. I DON'T LIKE THE IDER OF INVOLVING SOMEONE ELSE.
I-CHING
BUT THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED RAPIDLY. THE BEHOLDER IS IN JEOPARDY, AND WE SHOULD NOT REFUSE BATMAN'S ASSISTANCE.
HE'S A BRAVE FIGHTER... BUT HE'S NOT THE ACTUAL BATMAN.
HE TALK'S LIKE AN ADOLESCENT, FOR STARTER'S.
YOU ARE WRONG. HE MOST CERTAINLY IS BATMAN. I MAY BE BLIND, BUT I CAN SEE THAT WITHOUT A DOUBT.
HE COULD PROVE TO BE OF GREAT HELP.
LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.
FINE.
BATMAN IS PERMITTED TO ASSIST. BUT ONLY IF HE DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY.
That's quite the ego from a woman I just saved from Sensei's blade.
Whatever.
SO FILL ME IN, I-CHING. TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS "BEHOLDER" THINGA-MAJIGGEE.
I WILL EXPLAIN AS WE MOVE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!


*THE FIRST WRITTEN RECORD OF THE BEHOLDER'S EXISTENCE SHOWS UP AROUND 1700 BC, DURING THE SHANG DYNASTY.
*ITS LEGEND BORE TALES OF ANNIHILATION OF WHOLE VILLAGES ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER.
*OVER THE CENTURIES, MAN HAS TRIED TO CONTROL AND WIELD ITS POWER...
*...AND EACH TIME HE HAS FAILED.
*IN 1929, A MONK RETURNING HOME TO HIS VILLAGE ALONG THE YANGTZE RIVER VALLEY DISCOVERED THE BEHOLDER'S EVIL FORCE FIRSTHAND.
HIS VILLAGE PROTECTED AND HID THE BEHOLDER FOR GENERATIONS. BUT CURIOSITY AND TEMPTATION PROVED TOO STRONG FOR ONE OF HIS BROTHERS.
BROTHER. COME.
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
THE VILLAGERS WENT MAD AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER UNTIL THERE WAS ONLY ONE LEFT.
THE VILLAGE HAS BROUGHT THIS UPON ITSELF.
THE MASK OF THE BEHOLDER SEEKS ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!
SLICK
SADLY, IT IS NEITHER YOU NOR I.
GUH!

"THE MONK FLED THROUGH THE BAMBOO FOREST. HIS WILL TO LIVE AND WARN OTHERS OF THE MASK WAS GREAT
"AS THE LAST OF HIS PEOPLE ENTRUSTED WITH THE BEHOLDER'S PROTECTION, DEATH WAS NOT AN OPTION."
HE-HELP... ME-EE...
"THAT'S WHEN DR. PAUL HENRY, A RENOWNED ARCHITECT AND ARCHAEOLOGIST, FOUND HIM DYING ON THE ROAD.
"UNDER WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A MORPHINE HAZE, HE GAVE DETAILS OF THE MASK THAT DESTROYED HIS VILLAGE. HE URGED DR. HENRY TO RECOVER THE BEHOLDER AND HIDE IT AWAY FOREVER.
"WHETHER THE HISTORIAN BELIEVED THE MONK'S STORY OR NOT MATTERED LITTLE.
"HENRY WAS STUDYING THE RUINS OF CHINA'S NEOLITHIC ERA ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER. THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO VERIFY THE MONK'S OUTLANDISH STORY.
"DR. HENRY SAW THE DESTRUCTION FOR HIMSELF...
"...AND BELIEVED."

"FROM THERE, DR. HENRY WOULD TAKE THE BEHOLDER HOME--TO *GOTHAM CITY*...

"...A METROPOLIS ON THE FAST TRACK TO BECOMING THE BIGGEST, TALLEST, GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

"BUT IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN HOME, THE DOCTOR SOON FELL ILL. HE BECAME MENTALLY UNSTABLE AND FOUGHT OFF FREQUENT THOUGHTS OF *SUICIDE*.

"HE FELT IT HAD TO BE THE WORK OF THE BEHOLDER MASK.

HE HEARD IT *SPEAKING* TO HIM--DRIVING HIM TOWARD'S *INSANITY*.

"AFTER HE TRIED TO DESTROY IT--*UNSUCCESSFULLY*--HE OPENED HIS PROBLEM TO PEOPLE WHO COULD HELP HIM.

"DR. HENRY BELONGED TO A CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS, CALLED *THE JADE COMPASS SOCIETY*. A BROTHERHOOD ACCUSTOMED TO KEEPING SECRETS.

"THE SOCIETY HID THE BEHOLDER SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF GOTHAM CITY--AND EVEN YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS HAD PASSED ON, KEPT IT *SAFE*.

"BUT THAT SAFETY IS NOW IN JEOPARDY. SENSEI HAS DISCOVERED ITS EXISTENCE HERE AND IS SEEKING TO *CAPTURE* THE MASK."

THE GOTHAM SCRAP METAL GRAVEYARD
BUT HOW DOES THE BOY FIT INTO ALL OF THIS, I-CHING?
THAT IS WHAT WE WILL SHOW YOU HERE.
LUKI WARNED US OF THE CATACLYSMIC EVENTS THAT THE DISCOVERY OF THE BEHOLDER WOULD BRING. LESS THAN A WEEK AGO, HIS VISIONS STARTED.
SO THESE DRAWINGS OF DESTRUCTION... BELONG TO LUKI?
IN A SENSE. BUT I DREW THE PICTURES. THEY ARE THE VISIONS LUKI SHARED WITH ME, MIND TO MIND.
WITH HIM BEING MUTE, IT IS THE BEST WAY
THEN IF HE CAN SHOW YOU HIS VISIONS, WHY CAN'T HE SHOW YOU WHERE HE IS NOW?
HE'S CLOSED HIS MIND. IT'S A BLACK CURTAIN. POSSIBLY TO PROTECT ME.
PROTECT YOU FROM WHA--
WAIT.
BATMAN?
I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.

WAKE UP, BOY.
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM MY INTERROGATION THROUGH SELF-IMPOSED BLACKOUTS.
IT IS BECOMING HARDER TO WAKE YOU. I WOULDN'T WANT TO IMPOSE PERMANENT DAMAGE.
BESIDES, I NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR.
THE MAN IN THE NOOSE BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO ME—BUT I GET THE PICTURE OF HOW YOU FEEL...
...AND I AM IN NO MOOD FOR CHILDISH GAMES!
OOOSH
WHUMP
YOU WILL OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I SWEAR ON MY ENLIGHTENED SOUL!
SENSEI, THIS FELL FROM THE BOY'S COAT...
...A BUSINESS CARD BELONGING TO LUCIUS FOX OF WAYNE ENTERPRISES.

THIS USED TO BE ONE OF CHINATOWN'S OLDEST CURIO SHOPS UNTIL YESTERDAY.
I SMELL EXPLOSIVES *DYNAMITE*.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I-CHING. THE FIRE MARSHAL DISCOVERED FRAGMENTS OF A TIMING DEVICE AMONG THE DEBRIS.
LUKI FOREWARNED OF THIS SHOP'S DESTRUCTION ON THE PLANE RIDE INTO YOUR COUNTRY, BATMAN.
IT'S LIKELY THIS PLACE WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED WITH THE LOCATION OF THE BEHOLDER.
SENSEI KNOWS ABOUT THE BEHOLDER AND HAS AT LEAST AS MUCH INFORMATION AS LUKI DOES... SO SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ITS LOCATION *HAS* TO BE FEEDING SENSEI INFORMATION.
THE BEHOLDER'S POWERS ARE SAID TO BE GREAT-- AND *MYSTERIOUS*. IT MAY BE ABLE TO ATTRACT THOSE IT FEELS *WORTHY* OF FREEING ITS POWER.
SO, LUKI HAS BEEN... *COMMUNICATING* WITH THIS THING-- AM I RIGHT, PEACOCK?
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG
LUKI! AHIIIGGH!

SISTER!
AHIIIGGH!
-NNGG-
PEACOCK!
GIRL, WHAT HAS HE SHOWN YOU?
MY GOD... GREAT PAIN. I FELT IT NEVER BEFORE HAVE I .
I SENSE NO ONE NEW HERE. WHO HAS ARRIVED?
JUST MY BAT-CYCLE. I HAVE ANOTHER LEAD TO FOLLOW.
YOU LEAVE US?
I-CHING, TAKE HER TO REST. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHAT I FIND OUT IMMEDIATELY.
SCREEEEECH

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY.
FORENSICS SAYS IT'S A PROBABLE MURDER-SUICIDE. TEXT MESSAGES ON THE WIFE'S PHONE REVEAL A LONG-STANDING AFFAIR.

CRIMES A' PASSION. ONLY WAY YOU CAN EXPLAIN HUNDREDS OF STABS LIKE THAT, EH, COMMISH?
THE PROFESSOR'S PHONE RECORDS SHOW THAT A CALL WAS MADE TO FONG'S ANTIQUE SHOP.
MR. FONG DIED IN A BOMBING THERE SHORTLY AFTER.

WE CAN'T FIND A PRIOR CONNECTION TO SINNOT AND FONG. THEY'RE CHALKING IT UP TO A WRONG NUMBER. WE MAY NEVER KNOW.
THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS IS TOO LONG FOR A WRONG NUMBER.

THEN YOU WON'T THINK LUCIUS FOX'S CALL TO PROFESSOR SINNOT EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON WAS WRONG, EITHER. THAT LASTED A MINUTE AND THIRTEEN SECONDS.
WE TALKIN' *WAYNE ENTERPRISES* LUCIUS FOX HERE?
I HAVE NO PROBLEM SENDING OVER A COUPLE BOYS TO QUESTION LUCIUS.

"THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, COMMISSIONER-- I'LL TALK TO HIM *MYSELF.*"

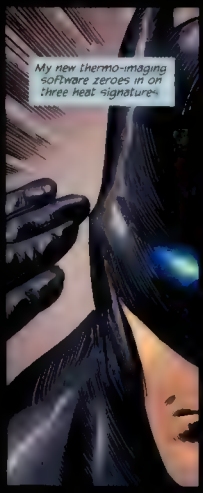
NORTH AVENUE, HOME OF LUCIUS FOX.

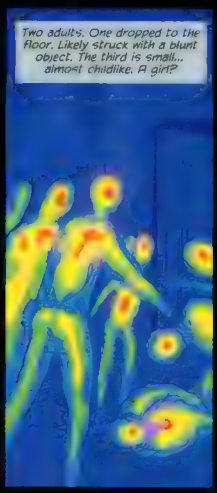
Two of three men who spoke to each other are now dead. I can only hope it isn't three for three.

LUCIUS? MR. FOX?

My worst fear--they've gotten to Lucius, too. The place is ransacked--but luckily, no sign of anything worse.

Yet.





The white flash blinds me.
I can make out a shape. There's someone else in the room with me.
It's only now that I notice I can't hear.
CRASH
BATMAN, YOU BITE!

I never saw it coming. Nor heard it.

When I land on the parked car I realize my body has gone numb, as well.
SLAM

Maybe that's good.
THUD

LOOKIT HIS MOUTH. I JUST SAW IT QUIVER!
OOH! THERE IT GOES AGAIN! SEEP HE'S WAKING UP!

AND YOU SAID HE WAS GONNA BE TOUGH.
YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN, KIDDO. FIRST OFF...

...NEVER, NEVER, NE-VERRRRR UNDERESTIMATE THE CAPED CRUSASDER.
YOU?

RIDDLER?
IN ALL MY GLORY, BATMAN. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE MET MY DAUGHTER?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE ENIGMA.
NEXT | SPEAK NO EVIL

SHAZAM!

I've always thought it was cool that we use the exclamation point after Shazam. I tried to see if we could add it to a bunch more of our titles ("BATMAN!" anybody?) but the idea got shot down pretty quick. Anyhow, welcome, loyal DC Nation readers, to our third and final preview of our January cover event. To commence a 2011 that will see major storylines play out through the DCU, we wanted to focus on the iconic nature of our characters and so we came up with the awesome covers that you see above this text. When you walk into your comics shop in January and see a DC title with this cover treatment, you know that you're getting the best in characters, story, art and price ($2.99 across the board!).

So take a look at this final batch of January covers (SHAZAM! #1 ties directly into an upcoming arc in TITANS for all of you who have been wondering) and get ready to be blown away by the upcoming year. We'll have more on what's ahead soon, but we have a few last-minute holiday preparations to see to.

Be seeing you.

— Ian Sattler

Senior Story Editor, DCU

DC NATION

TEXT **DC NATION** TO **62407** TO GET THE LATEST DC UNIVERSE NEWS, ALERTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS! Standard carrier rates may apply.

DC COMICS DIANE NELSON, President DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE, Co-Publishers GEOFF JOHNS, Chief Creative Officer PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP-Finance & Administration JOHN ROOD, Executive VP-Sales, Marketing & Business Development AMY GENKINS, Senior VP-Business & Legal Affairs STEVE ROTTERDAM, Senior VP-Sales & Marketing JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP-Marketing TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP-Managing Editor ALISON GILL, VP-Manufacturing DAVID HYDE, VP-Publicity SUE POHJA, VP-Book Trade Sales ALYSSE SOLL, VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing BOB WAYNE, VP-Sales MARK CHIARELLO, Art Director

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE Certified Fiber Sourcing Fiber used in this product line meets the sourcing requirements of the SFI program. www.sfiprogram.org PWC-SFICOC-260

BATMAN 705. February, 2011. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Congers, NY 10920. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $24.99. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125821072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2011 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber.
Printed by Quad/Graphics, Montreal: DC, Canada. 12/08/10.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

GREEN
GIANT
DCP